

*Application No .09/721,904
Amendment dated September 14, 2005
Reply to Final Action of March 8, 2005*

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LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1 to 169 (cancelled)

170. (currently amended) A method of stimulating expression of at least one defensin in a mammal in need thereof, by administering to the mammal a compound comprising soluble CD14, wherein the compound comprises CD14 obtained from a mammalian mammary secretion, so as to directly expose the compound to epithelial cells of the mammal ~~to the compound~~.

171. (previously presented) The method of claim 170, wherein the CD14 is obtained from bovine milk.

172. (previously presented) The method of claim 170 wherein, if the secretion has been previously subjected to a treatment step, the treatment step is sufficiently mild to permit preservation of CD14 activity for inducing or stimulating defensin production in epithelial cells.

173. (previously presented) The method of claim 170, wherein the CD14 is contained in a liquid.

174. (currently amended) The method of claim 173, wherein the liquid comprises a fraction of [[the]] milk enriched in said CD14.

175. (previously presented) The method of claim 170, wherein said CD14 is contained in an edible product.

176. (previously presented) The method of claim 170, including administering the CD14 to the mammal orally.

Claims 177 to 179 (cancelled)

180. (currently amended) A method of stimulating expression of at least one defensin in a mammal in need thereof, by directly exposing a compound to epithelial cells of the mammal ~~[[to a]]~~ wherein the compound comprises ~~comprising~~ soluble CD14 or a polypeptide portion of CD14 that enhances said expression, or a conservatively substituted variant of said CD14 or the portion

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that enhances said expression, and exposing epithelial cells of the mammal comprises exposing the respiratory tract of a said mammal to an effective amount of a said compound and includes administering the compound in the form of an aerosol.

Claims 181 to 198 (cancelled)

199. (currently amended) A method of stimulating expression of at least one defensin in a mammal in need thereof, by administering to the mammal a compound, wherein said compound comprises an amino acid sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:4 so as to directly expose the compound to epithelial cells of the mammal ~~to the compound~~.

200. (previously presented) The method claim 199, wherein the compound comprises a protein obtained from a mammalian mammary secretion.

201. (previously presented) The method of claim 200, wherein the protein is obtained from bovine milk.

202. (previously presented) The method of claim 201, wherein the protein consists essentially of the amino acid sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:4.

Claims 203 to 221 (cancelled)

222. (currently amended) A method of stimulating the expression of a defensin in a mammal, the method comprising administering to the mammal an isolated protein comprising an amino acid sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:4 so as to directly expose the protein to epithelial cells of the mammal ~~to the protein~~.

223. (previously presented) The method of claim 222, wherein the protein consists essentially of said amino acid sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:4.

224. (cancelled)

225. (cancelled)

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226. (currently amended) A method of enhancing expression of defensins in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising administering to the mammal ~~[[to]]~~ an isolated protein comprising an amino acid sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:4 so as to directly expose the protein to epithelial cells of the mammal ~~to the protein~~.

227. (previously presented) The method of claim 226, wherein the protein consists essentially of said amino acid sequence.

228. (previously presented) The method of claim 180, wherein the compound comprises an amino acid sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:4, or a conservatively substituted variant thereof.

229. (previously presented) The method of claim 228, wherein the compound comprises an amino acid sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:4.

230. (previously presented) The method of claim 229, wherein the compound consists essentially of the amino acid sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:4.

Claims 231 to 312 (cancelled)